

(1) v4-7 → God’s pattern for the priesthood

(2) v2a, 8-9 → The failure of Israel’s priesthood

(3) v1-3 → God’s response to the priesthood’s failure

1. What are some specific examples from your own life (positively or negatively) where you have seen the impact of a pastor/leader’s teaching and character on your own faith / the faith of others?
2. **Read v4-7 and Read 2 Tim. 4:1–5.** What was one of the primary responsibilities of the priests? What does 2 Timothy 4 say is one of the primary responsibilities of pastors?
3. **Read v2a and v8-9.** In what ways did the priests of Malachi’s day fail to honor God and their responsibilities? How should the people of Israel have responded?
4. **Read v1-3 and James 3:1.** Why are leaders judged more strictly?
5. In what areas of your own life are you not willing to “listen...take it to heart to give honor” to God’s name?
6. **Read 2 Cor. 5:18-20 and 1 Pet. 2:9.** How does the Lord’s accusation against the priests of Malachi’s day challenge your own responsibility as God’s ambassador and priest?
7. How does the knowledge that Jesus is our Great High Priest provide you with both assurance where you have failed, as well as the motivation to be His ambassador and priest?